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5/6 Series 3

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Brockway McMillan
Director, National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT : Contingency Planning for Project OXCART

1. I am informed that the Director, Program D, is moving ahead to formulate plans calling for the delivery of the first Air Force OXCART version to Edwards Air Force Base, California, where it and successive prototypes are planned for initial flight testing. Were this course of action to be continued without suitable contingency planning, we would find ourselves in the late spring of 1964 with no suitable alternative to what amounts to de facto surfacing, when the first Air Force aircraft shows up at Edwards.

2. Accordingly, I request that you instruct the Director, Program D, to consult and confer with the Director, Program B, toward developing in the next few weeks a contingency plan which would permit the first prototype of the Air Force version of OXCART to be accommodated [redacted] where OXCART flight testing is currently in process. I understand that meaningful preliminary flight testing of the USAF aircraft can be conducted [redacted] during the period from roughly 1 August through 31 December 1964. This time interval may be critical when viewed against the prospective operational readiness date of OXCART, now estimated for mid-summer of 1964.

3. I have directed Colonel Ledford, as Director of CSA, to ensure that appropriate facilities of the Agency are made available for the development of this plan, and to keep the Director periodically informed.

(Signed) Marshall S. Carter

Marshall S. Carter
Lieutenant General, USA
Deputy Director

HANDLER

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Rewritten: DDCI:MSC:bec (8 January 64)

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WILLIAM E. HILL